


RUBY'S CHINESE NEW YEAR

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Ruby drew the most beautiful picture of her family seated around a table full of noodles, dumplings, fish, vegetables, and holiday sweets—a gift for Grandmother. She folded the red paper, tucked it into a red envelope, and slipped it into her pocket.

Every year, Ruby's grandmother came to visit for Chinese New Year. Together they celebrated, eating special foods and making drawings for good luck. But this year, Grandmother was unable to travel. She would miss spending the holiday with Ruby.

And so Ruby made a decision. If Grandmother could not come to Ruby, Ruby would go to Grandmother!



Then she set off!

Not far down the path, Ruby spied Cat and Rat.
"Hello, Cat and Rat. I'm taking a gift for Chinese New Year to Grandmother. Would you like to come along?"
"Yes, of course!" said Cat. "But how will we cross the meadow and the pond?"
"Let's ask Ox," said Rat. "She's so strong and dependable."



And so Cat and Rat and Ruby continued on their way.



Ox was walking along the path to the farmer's home.
On her back she carried packages of rice cakes and
candies—sweet treats for the New Year.

"Hello, Ox," called Cat and Rat. "We are taking a gift
for Chinese New Year to Grandmother. Would you like to
come along?"

"I would be happy to," said Ox. "Climb on my back;
we will make the journey together."

And so Ox, Cat and Rat, and Ruby continued on
their way.



Before the group had taken two steps, Tiger and Rabbit bounded out of the bushes, streamers flying behind them.

"Hello, Tiger. Hello, Rabbit," said Ox. "We are taking a gift for Chinese New Year to Grandmother. Would you like to come along?"

"Oh yes, that sounds fun!"

said Tiger and Rabbit in unison.



And so Cat took a seat on Tiger's powerful back, and Rat perched between Rabbit's soft, friendly ears.



Together, Tiger and Rabbit, Ox, Cat and Rat, and Ruby continued on their way.



They soon passed Dragon and Snake, who were making paper lanterns.

"Hello, friends! Where are you off to?" asked Snake.

"We are taking a gift to Grandmother," said Tiger. "Would you like to come along?"

"Of course
I would!"

Snake loved
Grandmother and was
happy to visit her.

"We will bring the lanterns," said Snake.

"Will you come too, Dragon?" asked Rabbit.

"Of course," said Dragon, who was always ready for an adventure.

So Dragon and Snake, Tiger and Rabbit, Ox, Cat and Rat, and Ruby continued on their way.



As they walked along,
Ruby saw Horse and
Goat grazing
in the meadow.


"Hello," said Dragon and Snake. "We are taking a
gift to Grandmother. Would you like to come along?"

"Yes."

said Horse and
Goat together.




First they gathered flowers from the meadow. Then
Horse and Goat, Dragon and Snake, Tiger and Rabbit, Ox,
Cat and Rat, and Ruby continued on their way.



After a short while, Horse and Goat,
Dragon and Snake, Tiger and Rabbit, Ox, Cat
and Rat, and Ruby reached the pond, where
Monkey and Rooster were catching fish for
the holiday feast.

And through the shrubs, just on the other
side, Ruby could see—

Grandmother's house!

A two-page spread from a children's book. On the left page, a girl with dark hair in pigtails, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and a yellow patterned dress, is captured mid-air, jumping towards a pond. A red rectangular object is falling from the sky, with a dashed line showing its trajectory. The pond is filled with lily pads and pink lotus flowers. In the background, there are green hills and a small white house with a brown roof and a chimney. The right page shows the girl continuing her jump, with the house and hills still visible in the background. The text is written in a playful, rounded font.

With a **leap** and a **bound**,
Ruby **dove** into the **pond**.

She would swim
to Grandmother's!
She was so close.




celebrate Chinese New Year


春

Except for Cat, who had fallen fast asleep





As Monkey and Rooster, Horse and Goat,
Dragon and Snake, Tiger and Rabbit, Ox, Cat,
and Rat, and Ruby turned to look, Dog and
Pig came racing out to greet them. They
covered Ruby's face with kisses and tickled
her until she shrieked with joy.
The door opened.

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a grandmother with short, curly grey hair and rosy cheeks, wearing a red jacket over a blue shirt. She is hugging a young girl with long black hair in a ponytail, wearing a yellow dress and a red cardigan. The background is a large, red, diamond-shaped quilt with yellow floral patterns, set against a green background with small white and blue dots.

... and Grandmother appeared.

**"Ruby! What a
wonderful surprise,"**
said Grandmother.



"It's not ruined!" crowed Rooster.

"We have **fish**," said Monkey.

"And **flowers**," said Horse and Goat.

"We have **lanterns**," said Dragon and Snake.

"And **streamers**," added Tiger and Rabbit.

"We have **rice cakes** and **sweets**," said Ox.

"And we have our **family**,"

said Cat and Rat, looking
toward the house.

When Ruby finally reached the other side of the pond, Monkey and Rooster, Horse and Goat, Dragon and Snake, Tiger and Rabbit, Ox, and Cat and Rat were waiting with her card for Grandmother.

"Oh no," cried Ruby. "It's ruined. Everything is ruined!"





"I brought you a gift for Chinese New Year,"
said Ruby, "but it's wet. And ruined!"

"Don't worry," said Grandmother. "It will dry.
And seeing you and your friends today is the
best gift of all."